STUDIES ON MACQUARIE ISLAND LICHENS 1: GENERAL

by

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INTRODUCTION

This article serves as an introduction to a series of papers on the taxonomy and distribution of Macquarie island lichens, and includes a key to all lichen genera recorded from this Island. Future papers will present the results of the author's revisions.

GEOGRAPHY

Macquarie Island is situated in the Southern Ocean on longitude 158° 52′ E and between latitudes 54° 29′ S and 54° 47′ S. It is the southern-most island in the chain comprising Bluff, Stewart, Snares, Auckland and Campbell Islands which stretch south from New Zealand along the New Zealand Plateau—Macquarie—Balleny Ridge. It lies approximately 1530 kilometres south-south-east of Tasmania, Australia, and about 1370 kilometres north of the Antarctic Continent (Fig. 1).

The island, a dependency of Tasmania, is 34 kilometres long and 7 kilometres wide at its widest point (Fig. 2). The main body of the island consists of a large central plateau, about 250 metres above sea level, which is undulate on the top and divided into two halves by a low col. The southern half is the highest, rising to a maximum 433 metres at Mount Hamilton. The plateau area is covered with grass and herbs and is studded with lakes and tarns. The edge of the plateau drops abruptly into the sea on the western side, separated from it by tumbled rocks or in places a narrow shingle beach. By comparison the eastern escarpment drops steeply down onto a wide raised beach terrace.

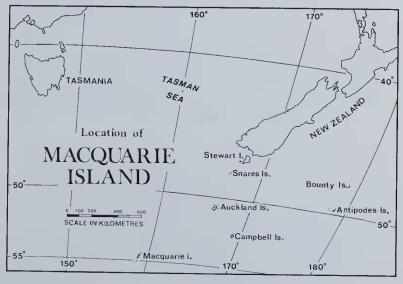


Fig. 1. Location of Macquarie Island.

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This subantarctic island lies north of the Antarctic Convergence, and is subject to persistent wind and cloud cover. There is little bright sunshine and it is mostly wet and cold. Rain, drizzle, snow and hail are frequent. The annual precipitation is 1020 mm. Temperatures fluctuate from near 0°C to about 15°C and the daily range is rarely more than 3.5°C.

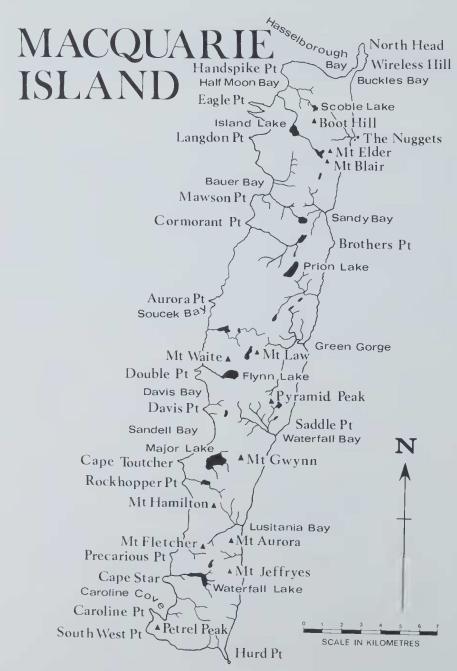


Fig. 2. Macquarie Island.

HISTORY

On 11 July 1810 Macquarie Island was sighted for the first time from the deck of the brig *Perseverance* under the command of Captain Fredrick Hasselburgh (Law & Burstall, 1956: 1). The *Perseverance* was en-route from Sydney to Campbell Island with provisions and stores for the sealers working on that island.

Hasselburgh named this new island after Lachlan Macquarie, then Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. He landed a party of eight men with provisions and salt; this gang was the first of many to engage in the steady slaughter of the fur seals which inhabited the island. Exploitation of the fur seals continued for the next ten years, by which time they were nearly exterminated.

It was at this time that the Australian sealing companies turned their attention to the sea elephants, killing them for their oil. By 1834 when the elephant seal was no longer present in workable numbers, the sealing ventures on the island had almost

ceased (Cumpston 1968: 70-72).

On 10 January 1840, the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842 under the command of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes arrived at the island. He found

the place ". . . dreary and inhospitable.".

The next fifty years saw very little activity in the seal-oil industry on Macquarie Island. The *Jessie Niccol* owned by Cormack, Elder and Company, under the directorship of William Elder, a New Zealand chemist, visited the island several times for oil. Joseph Hatch, also a New Zealander, reopened the industry in 1873 taking over the operations of the Elder Company. The production of seal oil and penguin oil continued under his direction until 1919. The licence to kill seals and penguins on the island was cancelled on 2 February 1920 (Cumpston 1968: 316).

Captain R. F. Scott, en-route to the Antarctic Continent in the *Discovery*, paid a short visit to the island on 22 November 1901 and the British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909, led by Sir E. H. Shackleton, landed at Lusitania Bay. Both of these visits

were very brief.

On 11 December 1911, the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (A.A.E.), under the leadership of Sir Douglas Mawson set up a scientific base on the isthmus at the foot of Wireless Hill and members of this expedition spent two years on the island.

The British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (B.A.N.Z.A.R.E.) 1929-1931, also led by Sir Douglas Mawson, landed in Buckles

Bay on 2 December 1930 for a short stay.

Macquarie Island was declared a Sanctuary for animals and birds on 17 May 1933 upon the recommendation of the Animals and Birds Protection Board of Tasmania. It was not revisited until 7 March 1948 when H.M.A.S. *Labuan* arrived with the first Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (A.N.A.R.E.). This expedition established a station, at the site of the previous A.A.E. base, which has been continuously occupied since its formation.

HISTORY OF LICHENOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Macquarie Island has been visited by a number of scientific expeditions in the course of its short history. Few of the early expeditions contributed greatly to the knowledge of the lichen flora. The first known collection of Macquarie Island plants was forwarded to Sir W. J. Hooker at Kew in about 1830, by the Superintendent of the Sydney Botanic Gardens (Cheesman 1919: 10). The eight species mentioned in this publication are only of vascular plants.

Dr. J. H. Scott of Otago University, New Zealand, made a brief visit in 1880 for the special purpose of investigating the flora and fauna, and to him is credited

the first observations of the lichens of this island (Scott, 1882):

"Azorella selago grows on the hillsides forming globular masses often 4 feet across. These are green on the surface where the living part of the plant lies as a crust to the great mass of debris which forms the interior. This is the decaying remains of former years growth . . . The whole makes a solid mass on which

one can stand . . . The young shoots are closely packed together and made so uniform a surface that lichens and other small plants are sometimes found growing on it."

The following is the list of lichens included in his report:

Stereocaulon ramulosum; Sphaerophoron coralloides (?); Cladonia cariosa; Cladonia pyxidata; Parmelia parietina; Lecanora parella; Lecidea coarctata.

In 1894, A. Hamilton, then Registrar of the Otago University, visited Macquarie Island, but unfortunately a portion of his collections had to remain on the island for some months after his return. When the remainder of his collection eventually arrived in New Zealand . . .

"The mosses and lichens collected were so injured by the wet, and by the delay of some months which occurred before they were brought up from the island, that I fear it will probably be impossible to give a list of any value."

(Hamilton 1895: 569).

The Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914, established a base on Macquarie Island and the expedition's biologist H. Hamilton (son of the former Hamilton) made a collection of lichens. Five fragmentary specimens were sent to Dr. C. W. Dodge at the Missouri Botanical Garden, U.S.A. who published his determinations in the BANZARE Reports (Dodge, 1948):

Pseudocyphellaria glabra (Hook.f. & Tayl.) Dodge; Stereocaulon corticulatum Nyl.; Stereocaulon sp. [later S. macquariensis Dodge (Dodge, 1968)]; Parmelia sublugubris Dodge; Cladia aggregata (Sw.) Nyl.

The remainder of the collection was erroneously forwarded to the British Museum and was unfortunately destroyed by bomb blast during the blitz of London (Dodge, 1948: 5, 13 footnote).

The British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Expedition of 1929-1931 collected almost 100 samples, which were sent to Dodge in Missouri. In the BANZARE Reports he described ten species as new (Dodge, 1948); these are marked with an asterisk in the following list of species:

*Buellia mawsoni Dodge; Cladia aggregata (Sw.) Nyl.; *Cladonia mawsoni Dodge; Cladonia sarmentosa (Tayl.) Dodge; Cladonia subdigitata Nyl. var. subalbinea Dodge; Coccocarpia kerguelensis Dodge; Coenogonium subtorulosum Müll. Arg.; *Gasparrinia macquariensis Dodge; *Lecania johnstoni Dodge; Mastodea sp. [later M. macquariensis Dodge (Dodge 1970)]; Menegazzia circumsorediata Santesson; *Microthelia macquariensis Dodge; Mykoblastus campbellianus (Nyl.) Zahlbr.; Pannaria sp.; Parmelia sublugubris Dodge; Parmelia tenuirima Hook, f. & Tayl.; Peltigera sp; Pertusaria tyloplaca Nyl.; Pseudocyphellaria glabra (Hook, f. & Tayl.) Dodge; Psoroma versicolor Müll. Arg.; Pyrenodesmia inclinans (Stirt.) Dodge; Pyrenodesmia subpyracea (Nyl.) Dodge; *Ramalina banzarensis Dodge; Ramalina inflata Hook f. & Tayl.; Rinodina peloleuca Nyl.; Rinodina subbadioatra (Knight) Dodge; *Siphulastrum destinaide Dodge; *Siphulastrum destinaide Dodge; *Siphulastrum destinaide Dodge; *Siphulastrum destinaides Dodge; *Siphulastrum destinai *Siphulastrum cladinoides Dodge; *Siphulastrum usneoides Dodge; Stereocaulon corticatulum Nyl.; Stereocaulon leptaleum Nyl.; *Stereocaulon pulvinare Dodge; Stereocaulon submollescens Nyl.; Thelidea sp.; Usnea arida Mot. var. muscicola Dodge; Usnea contexta Mot.; Usnea torulosa (Müll. Arg.) Zahlbr.; Usnea zanthopoga Nyl.

Since the ANARE station has been occupied several people including N. R. Laird, 1948, N. M. Haysom, 1949 and D. A. Brown, 1956 have made small collections of lichens. These collections were also forwarded to Dodge and a further twenty-four species were described as new to science (Dodge & Rudolph, 1955; Dodge, 1968, 1970):

Bacidia macquariensis Dodge; Blastenia macquariensis Dodge; Caloplaca macquariensis Dodge; Catillaria rudolphi Dodge; Chiodecton acarosporoides Dodge; Chiodecton macquariensis Dodge; Kuttlingeria macquariensis Dodge; Lecanora brownii Dodge; Lecanora procifera Dodge; Lecidea haysomi Dodge; Lecidea macquariensis Dodge; Omphalodina macquariensis Dodge; Opegrapha macquariensis Dodge; Parmelia brownii Dodge; Parmelia haysomi Dodge; Parmelia macquariensis Dodge; Peltigera lairdi Dodge; Phlyctis macquariensis Dodge; Phyllopyrenia macquariensis Dodge; Physcia macquariensis Dodge; Porina macquariensis Dodge; Psoroma macquariensis Dodge; Squamarina haysomi Dodge; Thamnolecania macquariensis Dodge & Rudolph.

There were also five new records added to the list:

Lecidea subglobulata Knight; Parmelia turgidula Bitter; Placopsis perrugosa (Nyl.) Nyl.; Ramalina geniculata Hook.f. & Tayl.; Stereocaulon argodes Nyl.

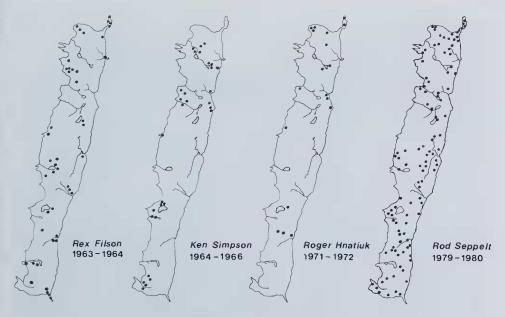


Fig. 3. Collecting sites of the major lichen collectors on Macquarie Island.

From 1963 collecting has been carried out systematically on Macquarie Island. R. B. Filson spent one day there in March 1963 and four months from December 1963 to March 1964, collecting extensively all around the island (Fig. 3). K. S. Simpson made numerous collections from widely scattered localities during the 16 months from December 1964 to March 1966. R. J. Hnatiuk spent December 1971 and January 1972 making comparison studies of alpine grassland regions. He collected 240 samples of lichen from 15 separate localities. D. A. Parker collected a number of specimens during 1971 and R. Waterhouse collected at the north of the island in 1972.

D. S. Horning was biologist with the Australian Museum Macquarie Island Expedition during the summer of 1977-78. The lichen specimens were determined by D. J. Galloway and the results published by the Museum (Lowry et al., 1978). The following is the list of species not previously reported for the region:

?Argopsis megalospora Th. Fr.; Cladonia auerii Räs.; C. coniocraea (Flörke) Spreng.; C. cornuta (L.) Hoffm.; C. fimbriata (L.) Fr.; C. foliacea (Huds.) -Willd.; Endocaena informis; Hypogymnia lugubris (Pers.) Krog.; Lecanora parmelina Zahlbr.; Mastodia tessellata Hook. & Harv.; Parmelia (Pseudoparmelia) caperata (Hoffm.) Ach.; Parmelia cunninghamii Cromb.; P. signifera Nyl.; Parmelia (Hypotrachyna) sinuosa (Sm.) Ach.; Peltigera horizontalis (Huds.) Baum.; P. rufescens (Weis) Humb.; Pertusaria dactylina (Ach.) Nyl.; Pseudocyphellaria delisea (Fée in Del.) Gall. & James; Psoroma hypnorum (Hoffm.) S. Gray; Siphulastrum mamillata [?unpublished ms. namc]; Sphaerophorus globosus (Huds.) Vain; S. melanocarpus (Sw.) DC.; S. ramulifer M. Lamb; Thamnolia vermicularis (Sw.) Schaer.; Usnea (Neuropogon) antarctica DuReitz; Usnea glomerata Mot.; Usnea (Neuropogon) laxissima Dodge; Xanthoria elegans (Link.) Th. Fr.

R. D. Seppelt spent a few days during November-December 1975 at Macquarie Island when he collected a few lichen samples. He was again on the Island for the 1979-80 summer period collecting bryophytes and lichens; he collected 197 specimens from 108 localities (Fig. 3).

PRINCIPAL VEGETATION FORMATIONS

The vegetation of Macquaric Island can be divided into five main formations: wet tussock grassland, herbfield, fen, bog and feldmark (Taylor, 1955). Brief notes



Fig. 4. Coastal rock stacks between Bauer Bay and Douglas Point showing abundance of species; dominant lichen is *Parmelia sulcata*. Photo: Ken Simpson.



Fig. 5. View from Mount Law towards Mount Blake (far middle-distance) and Mount Hamilton (left, far distance) showing lichen-covered plateau outcrops (left and right foreground), feldmark skirted by cushions of *Azorella* and *Rhacomitrium* (centre foreground), and plateau herbfield (middle distance). ANARE photo: R. D. Seppelt.

are given below for these, together with the dominant lichen genera occurring in each location.

WET TUSSOCK GRASSLAND:

The wet tussock grassland is found on all steep coastal slopes to an altitude of about 300 metres, on some inland slopes protected by severe winds and on coastal raised beach terraces, except where there is a high water table. This alliance is dominated by *Poa foliosa* and *Stilbocarpa polaris* with *Polystichum vestitum* and *Poa hamiltonii* as minor components in a few localities. The lichens in this alliance are few and are restricted to the bare earth patches between the tussocks or on rocky outcrops emerging from the grass canopy. On the bare patches of earth *Cladonia*, *Baeomyces* and *Peltigera* can be found associated with debris and roots.

The rock outcrops though not strictly part of the grassland have a wider lichen flora including *Psoroma*, *Cladonia*, *Lecidea*, *Lecanora*, *Usnea*, *Ramalina*,

Hypogymnia and Menegazzia.

The maritime communities have been grouped by Taylor (1955: 49) as a separate association under this alliance. The coastal rocks in the splash zone have a large number of crustose species: *Microthelia*, *Caloplaca*, *Placopsis*, *Lecanora*, and *Lecidea* are common. The old sea stacks, e.g. The Nuggets, have many additional genera, *Menegazzia*, *Peltigera*, *Pseudocyphellaria*, *Parmelia* and *Graphis*. These are mostly found on the sheltered side and top.

The cliffs at the edge of the plateau and the plateau outcrops provide the richest lichen flora on the island. *Usnea*, *Stereocaulon*, *Parmelia*, *Hypogymnia*, *Menegazzia*, *Caloplaca*, *Lecidea*, *Rhizocarpon*, *Lecanora*, *Microthelia* and several other crustose genera grow on these rocky faces which are abundantly covered with

lichens.

HERBFIELD:

The herbfield alliance is found in areas with a relatively high water table and moderate wind exposure at all altitudes up to 350 metres. It is dominated by *Pleurophyllum hookeri*; however the floristic composition varies greatly. In general the lichen flora is scarce; *Baeomyces*, *Psoroma*, *Lecidea*, and *Cladonia* are found recolonising bare patches of soil between the herbfields while the low branchlets of *Coprosma pumila* and other low bushes are the habitat for *Usnea*, *Hypogymnia*, *Cladia*, *Pseudocyphellaria* and *Sphaerophorus*.

FEN:

Juncus scheuchzerioides is the characteristic dominant vascular species of the fen alliance which occures locally in valley bottoms on the plateau and in isolated areas on the raised beach terraces. This alliance is very poor in lichen species; occasional patches of *Psoroma* or *Cladonia* are seen growing on dryer peat patches but in general the areas are too wet for lichen growth.

Bog:

The bog alliance occurs locally at all elevations on the island where there is an acidic water table at or above ground surface level. The lichens here are restricted to elevated and better drained areas within the alliance; *Hypogymnia*, *Usnea*, *Cladonia*, *Cladia*, *Pseudocyphellaria*, *Lecidea* and *Psoroma* are found growing over and amongst mosses and *Colobanthus muscoides*. Species of *Stereocaulon*, *Placopsis*, *Rhizocarpon* and *Lecidea* are common on rocks beside small streams.

FELDMARK:

Feldmark is found in all areas subject to high wind velocities at all altitudes and covers the greater part of the island above 180 metres. The dominant lichens are: Usnea, Sphaerophorus, Cladonia, Cladia, Hypogymnia, Pseudocyphellaria, Lecidea, Baeomyces and Psoroma. Pertusaria and other crustose genera grow on the

cushions of Azorella selago. Moss cushions sometimes provide habitat for small crustose species. Foliose and fruticose species occur amongst the pebbles and gravels of the bare patches on the slopes; here the dominant genera are Hypogymnia, Stereocaulon, Lecanora, Lecidea, Rhizocarpon and Placopsis. Some crustose species assume a fruticose habit because of the harsh environmental conditions. These will be discussed in more detail in later papers when individual genera are considered.

ARTIFICIAL KEY TO THE LICHEN GENERA ON MACQUARIE ISLAND
. Thallus fruticose or squamulose
2. Thallus fruticose
3. Primary thallus granulate crustose
4. Apothecia sessile
5. Cephalodia present
5. Cephalodia absent
4. Apothecia terminal on erect podetia
3. Primary thallus lacking or not granulate-crustose
6. Thallus hollow
7. Primary thallus absent
8. Thallus not inflated or lacerate
9. Thallus a shade of brown with regular patterns of perforations through the outer walls
9. Thallus a shade of grey with black markings and without perforations
8. Thallus much inflated and somewhat lacerate, perforations in walls very irregular; on coastal outcrops
7. Primary thallus erect and subfoliose, apothecia on cup-shaped pseudopodetia
6. Thallus solid
10. Thallus less than 1 cm tall
11. Thallus more or less terete, of uniform colouring
12. Thallus a shade of white or yellowish-white
13. Thallus with cephalodia Stereocaulon
13. Thallus without cephalodia
12. Thallus a shade of yellow or orange
11. Thallus dorsiventral one side a shade of green or brown, the other pale
14. Thallus without cephalodia
15. Thallus distinctly isidiose
15. Thallus not isidiose
14. Thallus with dark coloured cephalodia
10. Thallus greater than 1 cm tall
16. Thallus with central chondroid axis
17. Thallus a shade of white, pink or greyish-white with cephalodia
17. Thallus a shade of yellow, yellow-green or green and black, without cephalodia
16. Thallus without a central chondroid axis
18. Thallus green, yellow-green or brownish green
19. Thallus dorsiventral, strap-like
20. Thallus with distinct soralia
20. Thallus with dorsiventral lobulate branching at the marginsSphaerophorus
10 The House and the Control of the

	18. Thallus a shade of white, pink or brownish white21. Thallus hollow or compactly filled with medulla, lacking cephalodia
	Thallus hollow with perforations in the axils of the branches
	perforated
2 Thelles feliese	greyStereocaulon
 Thallus foliose Phycobiont bl 	lua arean
	gelatenous when wet
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	cobiont Nostoc
•	Cortex distinctly cellular
	Cortex of interwoven hyphae
	cobiont Xanthocapsa
	not gelatenous when wet
	ver surface not veined
	. Thallus lobes small, less than 5 mm wide, margins divided, isidiose, lobulate
	29. Apothecia lecanorine, margin prominent
20	29. Apothecia lecideine, margin disappearing Massalongia
	Thallus lobes large, up to 1 cm wide margins entire Erioderma
23. Phycobiont gr	wer surface veined
	urface smooth shining
	allus hollow
	Upper surface white to yellowish-white with perforations into the central
52.	cavity
	Upper surface grey with black markings without perforations Hypogymnia
	allus solid
	Lower surface white
	Lower surface black
	urface ecorticate, tomentose or rhizinate
	allus small, less than 10 mm tall, subfruticose
	Thallus with dark coloured cephalodia
	Thallus without dark coloured cephalodia
	Lower surface with rhizines
30.	37. Lower surface black
	37. Lower surface pale
36.	Lower surface tomentose with pseudocyphellae Pseudocyphellaria
Thallus squamulose or c	
38. Fruiting body stipit	ate, on podetia or pseudopodetia
39. Ascospores ma	
40. Exciple p	ale, soft
40. Exciple b	lack, brittle
39. Ascospores eig	ght per ascus
	rustose, apothecia sessile
41. Thallus a	fine powdery crust, apothecia stipitate
38. Fruiting body imme	
42. Ascospores mo	ore than eight per ascus

1.

	3. Apothecia adnate or sessile 44. Exciple pale, soft
42.	scospores one to eight per ascus
	5. Ascospores simple, unilocular
	46. Thallus squamulose
	47. Phycobiont blue-green
	48. Apothecia lecideine
	48. Apothecia lecanorine
	47. Phycobiont green
	49. Apothecia sessile to adnate
	50. Apothecia lecideine
	49. Apothecia immersed
	46. Thallus crustose
	51. Phycobiont green
	52. Fruiting body an apothecium
	53. Apothecia immersed in thallus or in warts
	54. Apothecia immersed but not in warts
	55. Paraphyses unbranched
	55. Paraphyses branched and anastomosing Trapelia
	54. Apothecia immersed in thalline warts Pertusaria
	53. Apothecia adnate to sessile
	56. Disk of apothecium $K - \text{ or } K + \text{ but not } K + \text{ purple}$
	57. Apothecia lecanorine
	58. Thallus with cephalodia
	52. Fruiting body a perithecium
	51. Phycobiont blue green
	5. Ascospores septate or polaribilocular
	59. Fruiting body a perithecium or perithecium-like
	60. Ascospores many-celled
	61. Ascospores transversely septate only
	62. Fruiting bodies immersed in stromatic warts Trypethelium
	62. Fruiting bodies not immersed in stromatic warts . Arthopyrenia
	61. Ascospores transversely and longitudinally septate
	63. Ascospores hyaline
	63. Ascospores brown
	60. Ascospores two-celled
	59. Fruiting body not perithecial64. Fruiting body round or misshapen by pressure
	65. Ascospores hyaline
	66. Apothecia lecanorine
	67. Ascospores polaribilocular
	67. Ascospore walls not thickened
	66. Apothecia lecideine 68. Ascospores polaribilocular, two-celled
	69. Ascospore walls not thickened
	07. Assospote wans not interested

		70. Thallus crustose
		71. Apothecial disk pale to dark not orange
		72. Apothecia less than 1 mm diam
		72. Apothecia greater than 1 mm diam
		71. Apothecial disk yellow to orange
		70. Thallus squamulose
		69. Ascospores polaribilocular
		68. Ascospores more than two-celled
		73. Ascospores transversely and longitudinally septate
		74. Apothecia black, ascospores grey to brown to black
		74. Apothecia yellow or pale, ascospores hyaline
		73. Ascospores transversely septate only Bacidia
	65.	Ascospores brown
		75. Ascospores transversely septate only
		76. Apothecia lecideine
		76. Apothecia lecanorine
		75. Ascospores transversely and longitudinally septate
		77. Apothecia immersed in the thallus or lecano
		rine
64.	Ermi	ting body elongate, irregular or star-shaped
04.	78.	
	/0.	79. Ascospores brown
		80. Ascospores two-celled
		80. Ascospores more than two-celled Phaeographis
		79. Ascospores hyaline
		81. Fruiting bodies clustered, immersed in stroma
		82. Hypothecium dark
		82. Hypothecium pale Enterographa
		81. Fruiting bodies single not immersed in stroma
		83. Paraphyses branched and anastomosing, exciple usually well developed
		84. Ascospores usually two- to four-celled, cells of unequal size
		84. Ascospores usually four or more celled, cells uniformOpegrapha
		83. Paraphyses unbranched, exciple well developed
	78.	Ascospores transversely and longitudinally septate
		85. Ascospores hyaline
		86. Paraphyses branched and anastomosing Arthothelium
		86. Paraphyses unbranched
		85. Ascospores brown

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